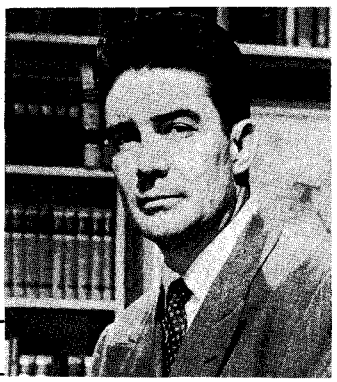
THE
Dan Smoot Report

Vol. 12, No. 17 (Broadcast 557) April 25, 1966 Dallas, Texas



DAN SMOOT

THE SOCIALIST-LABOR WELFARE STATE

A New York state law (the Condon-Wadlin Act) makes it illegal for public employees to strike. It provides that those who strike must be fired. If rehired after striking illegally, they may not receive a pay raise for three years.

In December, 1965, Michael J. Quill, head of the Transportation Workers Union (34,000 members), said he would shut down New York City's transportation system with a strike — in defiance of the Condon-Wadlin Act — if his union's demands were not met. He was demanding a 4-day, 32-hour work week, a 30% increase in pay, retirement at half pay after 25 years, six weeks' paid vacation after one year, increased contributions to health and welfare trusts, and a 10% differential for night work — demands which would have cost New York City 680 million dollars a year. A court enjoined the union against calling the illegal strike. Quill tore up the court order, suggesting that the judge "drop dead."(1)

The strike began January 1, 1966, paralyzing New York City for 12 days, costing the people of the city well over a billion dollars.

Quill (jailed for defiance of the court) died shortly after the strike was settled.

The settlement will cost New York City about 100 million dollars a year.

No fines were imposed on the union for violating court orders. No penalties were imposed on strikers for violating the Condon-Wadlin Act.

Mayor John Lindsay called the settlement a "triumph of reason and good will."(2)

But a Queens attorney, George Weinstein, thought otherwise. The State and the City of New York had not only capitulated to the union's extortion demands, but had also become parties

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT is published weekly by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., Box 9538, Dallas, Texas 75214 (office at 6441 Gaston Ave.). Subscriptions: $18.00 for 2 years; $10.00, 1 year; $6.00, 6 months; first class, $12.50 a year; airmail, $14.50. Dan Smoot was born in Missouri, reared in Texas. With BA and MA degrees from SMU (1938 and 1940), he joined the Harvard faculty (1941) as a Teaching Fellow, doing graduate work in American civilization. From 1942 to 1951, he was an FBI agent; from 1951 to 1955, a commentator on national radio and television. In 1955, he started his present independent, free-enterprise business: publishing this REPORT and abbreviating it each week for radio and TV broadcasts available for commercial sponsorship by business firms.

Copyright by Dan Smoot, 1966. Second Class mail privilege authorized at Dallas, Texas
No Reproductions Permitted.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

to the violation of law. Weinstein sued to prevent the pay raises. New York State Supreme Court Justice Irving Saypool ruled that the pay raises were illegal, ordered the Transit Authority not to pay them. The union threatened to strike again if the Authority obeyed Judge Saypool's order.[2]

Mayor Lindsay said the situation was "very difficult and very complicated"; but Governor Rockefeller had a solution. He asked the State Legislature to amend the Condon-Wadlin Act to exclude the Transportation Workers Union from its coverage, making the amendment retroactive to invalidate Judge Saypool's injunction.[2]

New York City's welfare workers (who had struck illegally in 1965) threatened another illegal strike if *they* were not excluded from the law. Ferryboat operators (who had also struck illegally in 1965) threatened to paralyze the port of New York if *they* were not excluded.[2]

Rockefeller's law was passed, excluding only the Transportation Workers Union from the Condon-Wadlin Act. Welfare workers and ferryboat operators have not yet kept their threats to strike for exclusion from the law; but public school teachers in Plainview, seeing how the transit workers were rewarded for violating the law, struck on March 8. New York City school teachers plan to strike in September.[3]

Another effect of rewarding union lawlessness was apparent in late March and early April (1966) when the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen (representing some 30,000 firemen) called a strike which affected the war effort and the economy of the entire nation. This union struck because the railroads will no longer provide training programs for firemen who are no longer needed. A federal court ordered the union fined for every day the illegal strike continued. The union boss offered a deal: he would call off the strike if the fines were dismissed, if there were no damage suits against the union, and if there were no company reprisals against strikers. The strike ended on April 3, without any public word as to whether the union would be forced to pay the fines.[4]

Why?

What should officialdom do about the arrogant lawlessness of unionism? Specifically, what should have been done about the New York transit strike?

All strikers should have been fired and their jobs given, permanently, to qualified non-union persons. Governor Rockefeller and Mayor Lindsay should have guaranteed the new workers full protection and should have prosecuted any unlawful union acts to the full extent possible under city ordinances and state laws.

Instead, Rockefeller and Lindsay rushed to surrender the authority of the State of New York and of America's largest city to 34,000 hired hands and their union bosses — demonstrating to the world that crime does pay, when committed by people with political influence. Federal officials did nothing, said nothing. But after Michael Quill's death, UN Ambassador Goldberg (formerly Secretary of Labor and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court) had a tearful talk with columnist Victor Riesel, saying:

"I sorrow for Mike. I liked him . . . . I'll be at his funeral. Write a final piece about him, Victor."[5]

Why did Rockefeller and Lindsay condone union lawlessness that created vast suffering and economic loss for millions of innocent victims?

In an article headlined "Anatomy of the Surrender at Albany," published by *The New York Times*, February 20, 1966, Arthur Krock said:

"Both are politicians of the 'liberal' persuasion whose cheeks blanch at the very thought of being

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

called 'strike-breaker,' and to whom the crossing of a picket line is unthinkable — at least in terms of practical politics — even though the picket line of the Transit Union was drawn to support anarchic defiance of the law and the courts."

There is the crux of the matter. Rockefeller and Lindsay are liberals. Liberal politicians at the highest level (meaning the President, members of Congress, and other high officials in the federal government) set an example of lawlessness by violating their solemn oaths to uphold the Constitution, by their utter disregard for this supreme law of our land, by their consistent sacrifice of national interest to buy the political support of organized minority groups.

Where We Are Heading

The people should force Congress to repeal all federal labor laws. Then, state and local authorities *could* discharge their responsibilities to protect life and property. The people should also elect constitutional conservatives who *would* do their duty.

Unless we take such action, the United States will eventually be in the plight of other nations where the liberal socialist-labor welfare state has run its course. Uruguay is an example.

Uruguay, a small South American country, is fabulously blessed with natural advantages. Abundantly watered by nature and with a benign climate, Uruguay is a great, treeless plain, with deep, rich topsoil that could grow anything.

Uruguay has no racial or minority-group problem, as other countries of South America have; and it has the highest literacy rate (91%) on the continent. Yet, when I made a brief tour of South America three years ago, Uruguay was the most inhospitable, unattractive place I visited. The people looked unhappy and sullen. Shopkeepers, sales personnel, waiters and waitresses, taxi drivers seemed hostile, as if resenting customers because waiting on customers required effort.

Travel folders tout Montevideo, the capital, as the very jewel of cities. I found it dirty and run-down. The public services I had occasion to notice — street cleaning, transportation, telephones — were the worst I saw on the continent.

Conditions in Uruguay have deteriorated since I was there in 1963. Then, the exchange rate for the peso was 10 for one American dollar; but the Uruguayan peso has been devalued three times in the past 2 years, and is now an almost worthless currency. Uruguay is nearer bankruptcy than any other South American country.[6]

Uruguay has the most comprehensive social security system in the world. Every man can retire on full pay for life after 30 years of work (which could, and in many cases does, mean retirement at age 48). A childless woman can retire on full pay for life after 25 years of work. If she has a child, she can retire for life at age 28, on one-third of the highest pay she received during the few years she worked. Pensions are adjusted upward to correspond with rising living costs. Because of chronic inflation, caused by government spending, living costs are perpetually rising. Hence, those who retire often draw more money on pension than they formerly drew on salary.[6]

Uruguay has all the other trappings of the welfare state: government-guaranteed medical care, government education, compulsory unemployment insurance, government-subsidized housing.

But government-guaranteed security has become — as it inevitably had to become, in Uruguay or anywhere else in the world — government-created insecurity.

The total work force in Uruguay is 1 million persons. Of these, one-fourth are government employees. There are 340,000 retired persons on pensions. This means that 750,000 workers must

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

support 340,000 pensioners and 250,000 civil servants who administer benefits to pensioners — while also supporting government schools, hospitals, doctors, housing projects, general services, and so on.[6]

All workers (in and out of government service) are organized in unions whose general aim is to get maximum pay for minimum work. Unions have more power over the people than government has. Crippling strikes, by government employees and others, are commonplace.

Most government departments work only half days in summer so that employees can spend their afternoons on the beaches. Though one out of every four employed persons in Uruguay works for the government, government services are disastrously slow. A worker may be *eligible* to retire for life on full pay at age 43 or 48, but it sometimes takes the bureaucrats ten years to process his papers and start paying his retirement benefits.[6]

Uruguay — which could produce enough food and raiment for every person in South America — has become a land of destitution and despair. There is little hope for peaceful solution of the problems, however, because half a century of socialist-labor welfare-state liberalism has taught the people to expect something for nothing.

Uruguay has compulsory, universal suffrage — which means that every adult (no matter how irresponsible as a human being or how worthless as a citizen) not only can, but must, vote in every election. The majority always votes for government programs that promise less work and more welfare.

Uruguay is a classic example of modern liberalism come to full fruition. The national dream is idleness on a pension; the economic goal of all is government-guaranteed birth-to-death security; the political ideal is universal equality.

Uruguay has the great society which Johnson is building in the United States.

Let Them Hear From You

It is probably too late for Uruguay, but we can still do something about the growth of the socialist-labor welfare state in the United States. A start would be made if every member of Congress received a flood of letters saying, in essence:

"The federal government, operating unconstitutionally in the labor-management field for a long time, has created a frightful situation, with laws which grant special privileges to unions. All federal labor laws should be repealed, so that local and state authorities will no longer be prevented, by the federal government, from protecting the public against union lawlessness. Will you support a bill to repeal all federal labor laws? If not, why not?"

FOOTNOTES

(1) *The New York Times*, December 31, 1965, pp. 1, 8; *U. S. News & World Report*, January 17, 1966, pp. 84-6

(2) "Weinstein Against the Mainstream," by Jim Wright, *The Dallas Morning News*, March 7, 1966, p. 2D

(3) Articles by Roy R. Silver, *The New York Times*, March 8, 1966, p. 23 and March 9, 1966, p. 35; *The New York Times*, March 31, 1966, pp. 1, 32

(4) AP stories from Washington, *The Dallas Morning News*, April 2 and 4, 1966, p. 1A; UPI article, *The Dallas Times Herald*, March 31, 1966, pp. 1, 13A

(5) "Inside Labor," by Victor Riesel, *Evening Tribune*, San Diego, Calif., February 10, 1966, p. 32A

(6) "Uruguay: Utopia Gone Wild," by John Gunther, *Reader's Digest*, April, 1966, pp. 187-92

REPRINTS OF THIS ISSUE
(for bulk mailing to one address):

1 copy	$ .25	100 copies	$ 6.50
10 copies	1.00	200 copies	12.00
25 copies	2.00	500 copies	28.00
50 copies	3.50	1000 copies	50.00

Texans Add 2% for Sales Tax

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT TAylor 1-2303
BOX 9538 DALLAS, TEXAS 75214

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED